TO THE

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Stowmarket Urban District Council.

12*th* JANUARY, 1907.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my TENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the health of Stowmarket for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

VITAL STATISTICS.

I have based the following Statistics on the population at the last census.

Birth Rate, 25·7 per 1000.

During the year there were 107 Births (56 boys and 51 girls), which gives a Birth Rate of 25·7 per 1000. This is a great improvement from last year, and is considerably above the average for the previous ten years (see Table I.) The Birth Rate for the East Stow District was 25·2 per 1000.

Death Rate, 15·1 per 1000.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was 57 (30 males and 27 females). Four of the paupers who died at the Workhouse during the year belonged to Stowmarket, and also 2 of the patients who died at Ipswich Hospital, and these, added to the above, gives the corrected number of 63, and a Death Rate of 15·1 per 1000, compared with 11·7 per 1000 last year, and an average of 14·7 for the previous ten years. The Death Rate for the East Stow District was 13·8 per 1000.

Infant Mortality, 120 per 1000 Births.

There were 14 Deaths registered of Infants under one year of age, equal to an Infant Mortality of 120 per 1000 Births, compared with 107 last year, and an average of 118 per 1000 for the previous ten years (see Table V.) This rate for the East Stow District was 121 per 1000.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 4 Deaths caused by the Zymotic Diseases, all Infants under one year of age—3 were due to Whooping Cough, and 1 to Diarrhœa; compared with only one death last year.

Other Deaths.

Amongst the causes of other Deaths will be noted (see Table IV.):—4 due to Phthisis, compared with 3 last year; 10 to Cancer, compared with 1 last year; 7 to Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, compared with 14 last year; 7 due to Heart Disease, compared with 6 last year; 4 were caused by Accidents; and 9 were registered as being due to "old age."

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year only 12 notifications of Infectious Diseases were received, viz:—

Diphtheria, 5 (compared with 2 last year.)
Scarlet Fever, 5 (compared with 5 last year.)
Erysipelas, 2 (compared with 1 last year.)

For the second year I have to note that no case of Enteric Fever has been notified in the town; and it was not necessary to use the Infectious Hospital.

Each case was thoroughly investigated at once, and the following sanitary defects discovered and remedied:—

Diphtheria. Two cases in one house: the whole of the drainage was defective, being constructed of butt pipes—the whole was condemned—a vault done away with altogether, and the drainage reconstructed in glazed pipes. One case was probably imported, and in that case and the other 2, no sanitary defects were discovered.

Scarlet Fever. The first 2 cases occurred in Bond Street and Bridge Street, and the vaults were within a few yards of the cottages; in the other 3 cases no sanitary defects were reported.

Erysipelas. In one case the cesspool cover was defective; in the other the ventilation to the drains were defective; and sewage soaked through the cellar floor.

GENERAL SANITARY REPORT.

Bake-houses. The Bake-houses were inspected officially during the year, and occasional surprise visits were made. They were found to be in a very satisfactory sanitary condition.

Slaughter-houses. The Slaughter-houses were inspected during the year, and also occasional surprise visits were made. They were found to be in a very satisfactory sanitary condition.

Cow Sheds and Dairies. The Cow Sheds and Dairies (3) were inspected during the year, and were found to be in a very satisfactory sanitary condition. Two purveyors of milk were registered during the year, after an inspection and report on their premises.

Common Lodging Houses. The Common Lodging-houses (2) were inspected during the year and were found to be in a fairly satisfactory sanitary condition.

Factory Act. There are 51 Workshops and 10 Factories now on the register, necessitating 108 inspections during the year; in 2 cases a great want of cleanliness was reported and remedied, and 1 case of insufficent sanitary accommodation remedied.

Refuse Disposal. The Refuse from the houses in the town is removed twice a week and carted to the outskirts of the town. Altogether 900 loads have been disposed of, and 142 loads of Night Soil; at a cost to the town for labour of rather more than £50.

New Bye-laws. The new Bye-laws have been approved by the Council and the Local Government Board, and have now been printed and published.

Sewerage. During the year 35 houses have been connected to Sewer, and the vaults of same done away with, making a total of 315 houses connected since 1903.

Six houses are being connected to Sewer at present, and 25 other houses will be connected during the next 3 months.

New Sewers have been constructed at rear of Bury Street, 104 yards; Bury Road from Hill House, 132 yards. There remain to be re-constructed the Sewers in

Bury Street (part)	Butt Pipes
Tavern Street	,,
Bond Street	,,
Violet Hill	,,
Union Street	,,
Church Lane (part)	,,
Ipswich Street (7 houses) ...	No Sewer

The Main Intercepting Sewer for 1660 yards was cleaned out in March and September, at a cost of £17; 30 loads of silt were removed. It is suggested that a detritus chamber would be an advantage in this sewer.

Drainage, &c. The Drainage from 11 houses in Bury Street has been condemned and will be reconstructed during the current year. The Drainage from 13 houses in Bury Street was condemned and has since been reconstructed; the drains from these houses were very defective, they went from the houses into a 12in. brick sewer then to 12in. butt pipes with open joints, (as much as 1½in.), through private property into a dead well, which "overflowed" into the sewer in Union Street. The dead well was 4 ft. in diameter and contained 6 ft. of solid matter completely blocking all openings, and the ground through which these sewers passed were simply honey-combed with rat's runs.

In connection with a Cottage in Bury Road a P. Vault was condemned, and an Earth Closet constructed in its place.

A House in Ipswich Street: Drains and Traps condemned and since reconstructed.

A Cottage in Spink's Lane: no drainage for sink waste, a properly constructed dead well has been provided.

Two Houses in Tavern Street: the sink pipes were connected directly with drains and the drains were defective (butt pipes), condemned and since reconstructed properly.

Two Houses in Station Road: all the drains and traps condemned (butt pipes, D traps, &c.) and since all reconstructed satisfactorily.

Five Cottages in Crown Street: new drainage had to be constructed owing to old butt pipes being choked and drainage from sinks, &c., soaking into ground under the houses.

Shop in Market Place, where an excessive amount of sickness has occurred during last year was examined, and the ventilation pipes were found to be defective and also that sewage was soaking through the floor of cellar, this has since been remedied.

Several Houses in Childer Road: drains condemned (butt pipes), and since reconstructed.

Private House in Bury Street: sanitary accommodation condemned, will be reconstructed this year.

Stowupland Street: Refuse Bin condemned and since done away with.

Water Supply. During the year 15 Houses have been connected with the public supply. With regard to the water supply of the town, there are still about 70, more or less polluted wells being used for domestic and trade purposes.

The question of the purchase of the Waterworks by the town is progressing and an inquiry will be held by the Local Government Board during the year.

House Accommodation. Cases of overcrowding were reported to the Council in cottages in Church Walk—in one cottage, there were 5 people to 2 small bedrooms; in the second 10 people to 2 bedrooms; and in the third, a cottage of 2 rooms only, there were 7 people. In the worst case there was only 140 cubic feet of air to each occupant; and the sexes were mixed in all cases. Since the report was made notices have been served on the occupiers and the overcrowding has been remedied.

There is a very great want in the town for small cottages, with 3 bedrooms, for the working classes.

Table I. shows the estimated Population and Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

Table II. refers to the Factory Act.

Table III. shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to the age of the persons affected.

Table IV. shows the causes of, and ages at, Death during the year.

Table V. gives details *re* Infant Mortality during the year.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the great help I have received from the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the considerate manner in which they have always received my suggestions.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. W. LOW, M.B., D.P.H., &c.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1906 and previous Years.

Year.	Popul'tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.						
		No.	Rate.*	No.	Rate per 1000 Births registd.	No.	Rate.*				No.	Rate.*
1896	4256	107	25·1	10	93						58	14·0
1897	4238	109	27·7	12	110						64	15·1
1898	4221	98	23·2	17	171	71	16·8			6	77	18·2
1899	4202	103	24·5	13	126	56	12·8			4	60	14·2
1900	4185	104	24·8	16	153	70	16·7			1	71	16·9
1901	4162	114	27·3	20	178	66	15·8			3	69	16·4
1902	4162	92	24·5	9	97·8	51	12·2			3	54	12·9
1903	4162	72	17·2	7	97·2	52	12·4			6	58	13·9
1904	4162	89	21·2	11	123	56	13·4			4	60	14·4
1905	4162	93	22·3	10	107	48	11·5			1	49	11·7
Averages for years 1896-1905.			23·7		118		13·9					14·7
1906	**4162**	**107**	**25·7**	**14**	**120**	**57**	**13·9**			**6**	**63**	**15·1**

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2177

Total population of all ages 4162

Number of inhabited houses ... 962 Average number of persons per house ... 4·4

TABLE II.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	18	0	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	70	0	0
Workplaces	20	0	0
Total ...	**108**	**0**	**0**

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects. Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	2	2
Sanitary Accomodation—Insufficient	1	1
Total ...	**3**	**3**

3.—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107. Lists received from Employers. Lists.	Outworkers.	Prosecutions. Failing to send Lists.
Wearing Apparel—Making &c.	4	14	2
Total ...	**4**	**14**	**2**

Total Number of Workshops on the Register **51**

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1906.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria ...	5		1		2	2		
Erysipelas ...	2				1	1		
Scarlet Fever ...	5			4	1			
Totals ...	**12**		**1**	**4**	**4**	**3**		

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1906.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
Small-pox							
Measles							
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping Cough	3	3					
Diarrhœa	1	1					
Enteritis							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4					4	
Other Tubercular Diseases ...							
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	10					5	5
Bronchitis	3	2					1
Pneumonia	4					3	1
Pleurisy							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs							
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...							
Premature Birth	4	4					
Heart Diseases	7					3	4
Accidents	4		1			2	1
Suicides							
Apoplexy							
Diabetes	1				1		
Old Age	9						9
All other causes	13	4				2	7
All causes	**63**	**14**	**1**		**1**	**19**	**28**

TABLE. V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes—Certified					6												14
Common Infectious Diseases:—																	
Whooping Cough ...						1	1			1							3
Diarrhœal Diseases:—																	
Diarrhœa, all forms ...										1							1
Wasting Diseases:—																	
Premature Birth ...	4				4												4
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus				2	2								1				3
Other Causes:—																	
Convulsions														1			1
Bronchitis										1					1		2

Births in the Year .. **107.** Deaths from all Causes at all Ages ... **63.**

Population ... ... **4162.**

STOWMARKET

Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1906.

J. NEWBY, PRINTER, STOWMARKET.